

## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
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**Name:** Sandra Quigg  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/12/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 5  
**Comment:**

As you can image, the Executive Committee and I were dismayed to learn of the large cut in funding for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham (BGCHR). But these are difficult times for all and I write on behalf of our Board to say thank you for the work you do and to understand for the future.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham was approved for a small adjustment in support in the initial budget approval process. That budget approval was based on alignment with the City's strategic plan and service to the City's residents and validated competitively by a committee. We noticed in the initial release that many organizations were eliminated from or reduced within the budget. BGCHR was reminded how fortunate we have been and how difficult it must be to make choices among the many worthy organizations who serve our citizens. However, it is my job as Executive Director to advocate for BGCHR services.

We scholarship every single child when they walk through our doors. For \$20 a week, a young person can have a safe place to go Monday-Friday. Our costs are at least five times that charge. On top of that "off the top" scholarship, we adjust our revenue every year to over \$80,000 in actual need-based scholarships. Based on the current environment, we expect scholarship needs to increase two-fold.

The Executive Committee and I recognize the position Council was put in regarding the need for COVID-type support for so many combined with a new competitive format with reduced city revenues. We thank Council and City staff for the hard work that goes into budget preparation, the hard listening that goes into public comments, and the hard decisions that must be made. BGCHR, of course, is concerned and challenged by the change in the City's FY21 financial support. More importantly, we strive to understand Council's decision and process so we can prepare better in the future. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham, I thank the Council and staff for the all the hard work you do to keep our community moving forward for the betterment of all.

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